



BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

When planning a career with your child, consider the following:

Pre-kindergarten – Third Grade

Development Traits

- Needs and seeks attention and praise.
- Has boundless energy.
- Considers fantasy as reality.
- Shows a variety of tension-releasing behaviors.

Career Needs

- Distinguish between work and play.
- Identify different types of work.
- Experience different types of work activities.
- Describe how decisions are made.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude.
- Identify personal feelings.

Parent Involvement

- Listen and encourage.
- Encourage involvement in a variety of sports/hobbies.
- Positively reinforce child for completing chores.
- Praise efforts toward work as well as accomplishments.
- Show an interest and stress importance of school.
- Give toys that promote role playing.
- Make decisions with – not for – your child.

Fourth Grade – Sixth Grade

Development Traits

- Is more independent.
- Feels that belonging to a group and friends are important.
- Can assume more responsibility.
- Has a surprising scope of interests.
- Can think on own but is influenced by others.

Career Needs

- Identify personal interests, abilities, strengths and weaknesses.
- Describe how work at home and/or school relates to jobs in the community.
- Describe how work is important and attainable to all people.
- Describe how personal beliefs and values affect decision making.

Parent Involvement

- Encourage good work habits at home. Gradually add responsibilities. Effort/experience are more important than quality.
- Don't assign jobs at home based on gender to avoid stereotyping. Show various workers in your community.
- Participate in the school's career education program.
- Listen as your child makes decisions. Keep peer pressure in mind.

Idaho Department of Labor

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor • Kenneth D. Edmunds, Director

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Seventh Grade – Eighth Grade

Development Traits

- Is undergoing dramatic physical changes.
- Is sensitive and has need for approval.
- Tries to build a unique identity apart from parents' influence.
- Wants more independence.
- Is curious but not ready for planning.
- Expresses feelings more openly.

Career Needs

- Demonstrate effective skills in working with others.
- Show an appreciation for the similarities and differences among people.
- Describe individual skills and aptitudes required to fulfill roles.
- Identify strategies for managing personal finances.
- Describe skills needed in a variety of occupations.
- Demonstrate skills needed to obtain and keep a job.

Parent Involvement

- Discuss your child's skills, interests, abilities, and goals to help plan for the future.
- Encourage participation in service-oriented activities in the community.
- Help children meet a variety of workers by arranging job observations, field trips or personal interviews.
- Use guided money management and allow your child to make economic choices.
- Allow children to work part-time outside the home.

High School

Development Traits

- Develops a sense of self-identity.
- Begins a more prominent and realistic work/career search.
- Develops a concern with social issues.
- Matures sexually with physical and emotional changes.
- Increases independence.

Career Needs

- Understand how individual personality, abilities and interests relate to career goals.
- Understand how education relates to college majors, further training and/or entry into the job market.
- Demonstrate transferable skills that can apply to a variety of occupations and changing work requirements.
- Be able to use a wide variety of career information resources.
- Show responsible decision making.

Parent Involvement

- Help your child make independent decisions.
- Encourage exploration of all kinds of postsecondary education opportunities.
- Involve yourself in your child's future planning.
- Give certain economic responsibilities.
- Encourage job awareness.
- Be flexible as the decision-making process evolves. It takes patience and numerous modifications.